

dard newsprint as well as glazed newsprint has been removed. The newspaper industry's liability accruing from the devaluation of rupee and rolling over of credits was reduced from Rs 60.63 crores to Rs 29.20 crores. DAVP advertisement rates have also been increased.

Utilisation of water of River Brahmaputra

5117 SHRI NANI  
NBHATTACHARYA  
SHRI ANAND RATNA  
MAURYA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) the details of scheme for full utilisation of the waters of Brahmaputra and Ganga rivers in order to utilise the national water resources in the country,

(b) whether any study has been made to augment water supply to the Ganga and Hoogly for the improvement of navigation facility at Calcutta port and supply of water to Mehanadi, Godavari and Krishna basins,

(c) if so, the details thereof,

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) (a) and (b) Some studies have been carried out to utilise waters of Brahmaputra for augmenting water supply to Ganga but not for augmenting supply to Mahandi, Godavari and Krishna basins

(c) and (d) There are two alternative possibilities for augmentation from Brahmaputra

(i) Brahmaputra-Ganga gravity Link Canal passing through India and Bangladesh, which will need the concurrence of Bangladesh

(ii) Brahmaputra-Ganga Link Canal contained entirely within Indian territory but involving pumping of water through a lift of 125 meters

(e) While conceptual paper studies have been carried out for alternative (i), pre-feasibility studies on the ground have been carried out for alternative (ii)

Irrigation schemes limited to Ayacut

5118 SHRIDHARAMHBIKSHAM Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka and Maharashtra have taken up several minor and lift irrigation schemes for tapping excess water over and above the allocation made to the States under the Bachawat Tribunal Award,

(b) if so the steps being taken by the Government in this regard,

(c) whether Central Water Commission have not cleared the irrigation scheme limited to an Ayacut upto 500 acres, and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) (a) No Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) The clearance of irrigation projects for culturable command area below 2000 hectares is not required from Central Water Commission